

# Sauget companies on list to pay for waste cleanup

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**SAUGET** — More than 30 companies and individuals have been targeted by the state to help pay for the cleanup of the Dead Creek industrial waste site.

Among those listed are several Sauget companies, including Monsanto Chemical Co., Cerro Copper Products Co., Big River Zinc Corp., Sterling Steel Casting Co. and Ethyl Petroleum Additives Inc.

Also listed is the Village of Sauget and individual landowners and trustees for deceased landowners, some from as far away as New York.

Monsanto and Sauget Mayor Paul Sauget were named because both formerly operated dumps near the Mississippi River.

In a highly publicized agreement this month, Cerro became the first party to reach an out-of-court settlement to clean up part of Dead Creek on Cerro property. The \$12 million cost of Cerro's share of the cleanup includes part of the cost of a state investigation into the extent of the pollution. The settlement frees

Cerro from further liability.

The Illinois Attorney General's Office is negotiating with Monsanto and with two other groups of companies and individuals for further cleanup of the site.

Letters sent to those cited ask for cooperation in cleanup efforts and ask for copies of shipping and other records that would help investigators to identify others responsible for the pollution.

Assistant Attorney General Christine Zeman said work of identifying other responsible parties is made harder because some of the companies that formerly contributed to the pollution are no longer in business. She said in many cases records also are haphazard or nonexistent, partly because companies commonly buried industrial waste.

Dead Creek runs through Sauget and Cahokia. Industries and residents regularly dumped chemicals and trash into the creek from about 1910 through the 1960s.

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## Cleanup

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The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has identified a variety of ground and groundwater contaminants, including dioxin, and has targeted the two areas where the pollution is greatest for cleanup.

IEPA Dead Creek project manager Paul Takacs said he doesn't know how long a cleanup will take or what the final cost will be. He said IEPA does not have a cleanup timetable. Takacs said a satisfactory cleanup can be done with existing technology.

Much of the Dead Creek bed is outside of the designated cleanup areas, which Takacs said include only the areas of heaviest pollution.

The easternmost area includes parts of the Dead Creek bed and two chemical landfills. The other area borders the Mississippi and includes the Monsanto and Paul Sauget landfills and the former treatment lagoon for the old Sauget sewage treatment plant.

General superintendent of environmental affairs Max McCombs acknowledged Monsanto's responsibility and willingness to clean up the landfill.

"It was a Monsanto landfill. The materials there are Monsanto's. We're going to take responsibility for making that area safe," McCombs said.

Village Attorney Harold Baker said Sauget is asking industries that contributed to the pollution to pay to clean up the lagoon.

Under federal law, current and former landowners and those who manufacture, treat or dispose of hazardous materials should pay for cleanup.

Attorney General Neil Hartigan earlier this month called Dead Creek the most polluted site in Illinois and said a cleanup of the creek is a top priority. State officials have said that even a partial cleanup could take years.

Illinois has tried unsuccessfully to get Dead Creek placed on the federal Superfund site list.

The following is a list of companies and individuals the attorney general's office has identified as those the state is trying to get included in the costs of the Dead Creek cleanup:

- Fred and Louise Leyhe, St. Louis
- Cerro Copper Products Co., Sauget
- Stanley Krietman, New York
- Richard M. Cohen, Los Angeles
- Morris Weissman, New York
- Midwestern Rubber Reclaiming Inc., Sauget
- Monsanto Chemical Co., Sauget
- Wiese Planning and Engineering Inc., Sauget
- Moto Inc., St. Louis
- Browning-Ferris Industries Inc. of St. Louis
- Sterling Steel Casting Co., Sauget
- William Shive, Effingham
- Big River Zinc Corp., Sauget
- Mobil Oil Corp., Chicago
- Rogers Cartage Co., Chicago
- Ethyl Petroleum Additives Inc., Sauget

- Donald Elsaesser, St. Louis
- Russell Richardson, Belleville
- Village of Sauget
- Byron Cave, McPheeters & Roberts, St. Louis
- Road Transport Corp., Des Moines, Iowa
- James D. Tolbird, Cahokia
- Illinois State Trust Co., Belleville
- Tony L. Lechner, St. Louis
- Sauget Mayor Paul Sauget
- Albert Latman III, Cahokia
- Andrew Hinkins, Sauget
- Milbeld Inc., Cahokia
- Robert A. Clarkson, Cahokia
- Rose Stillman, Cahokia
- Thomas Owen, Cahokia

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